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UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/60
16 April 1993

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Fourth session
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF PREPARATION OF PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Analytical studies on the six objectives of the World Conference on Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a limited number of short, analytical and action-oriented studies on issues referred to in paragraph 1 of Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990, in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 and in other relevant documentation and statements made at the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

2. At the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General submitted a document entitled "Annotations to the studies" (A/CONF.157/PC/20). The document listed the themes for the proposed studies, which were organized in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraph 1 (a) to (f) of General Assembly resolution 45/155, accompanied by annotations which were indicative only. As a reminder, the six objectives are listed below.

3. Objective 1: "To review and assess the progress that has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to identify obstacles and ways in which they can be overcome to further progress in this area" (resolution 45/155, para. 1 (a)).

4. Objective 2: "To examine the relation between development and the enjoyment by everyone of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights, recognizing the importance of creating the conditions whereby everyone may enjoy these rights as set out in the International Covenants on Human Rights" (resolution 45/155, para. 1 (b)).

5. Objective 3: "To examine ways and means to improve the implementation of existing human rights standards and instruments" (resolution 45/155, para. 1 (c)).

6. Objective 4: "To evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and mechanisms used by the United Nations in the field of human rights" (resolution 45/155, para. 1 (d)).

7. Objective 5: "To formulate concrete recommendations for improving the effectiveness of United Nations activities and mechanisms in the field of human rights through programmes aimed at promoting, encouraging and monitoring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms" (resolution 45/155, para. 1 (e)).

8. Objective 6: "To make recommendations for ensuring the necessary financial and other resources for United Nations activities in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms" (resolution 45/155, para. 1 (f)).

9. The secretariat of the World Conference subsequently engaged consultants, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution, to prepare studies in accordance with the above objectives. At the request of the Director of the Centre for Human Rights, these studies were considered by a group of Centre officials. Then, in February 1993, a one-day meeting was held in Geneva, attended by the consultants present in Geneva and the Centre officials. The purpose of this meeting was firstly to identify the improvements to be made to the studies and points which had not been dealt with adequately, and secondly to make concrete and practical proposals for measures to be taken by the World Conference. Following the meeting, the consultants harmonized the first version of their study and decided to shorten it.

10. At a second meeting of officials convened by the Director of the Centre, other corrections were made to the revised texts of the studies. It was then decided that each study should be circulated under the name of its author.

11. These studies are contained in addenda 1 to 7 of this document, as follows:

(a) Objective 1: Jean Mayer, "Progress and obstacles in the implementation of human rights: review of the period 1945-1992 and suggestions for the future" (A/CONF.157/PC/60/Add.1);

(b) Objective 2: Hubert Wieland Conroy, "On the relation between development and the enjoyment of all human rights, recognizing the importance of creating the conditions whereby everyone may enjoy these rights" (A/CONF.157/PC/60/Add.2);

(c) Objectives 1 and 2: Sergio Pinheiro, "Poverty, marginalization, violence and the realization of human rights" (A/CONF.157/PC/60/Add.3);

(d) Objective 3: Fausto Pocar, "Enhancing the universal application of human rights standards and instruments" (A/CONF.157/PC/60/Add.4);

(e) Objective 4: Maxime Tardu, "The effectiveness of United Nations methods and mechanisms in the field of human rights: a critical overview" (A/CONF.157/PC/60/Add.5);

(f) Objective 5: Nigel Rodley, "Towards a more effective and integrated system of human rights protection by the United Nations" (A/CONF.157/PC/60/Add.6);

(g) Objective 6: Maria Vassiliou, "Strengthening of the United Nations human rights programme: one of the priorities of the Organization" (A/CONF.157/PC/60/Add.7).

To ensure that these studies are available to members of the Preparatory Committee without undue delay, they will be circulated in unedited form. The final edited version will be completed in time for the World Conference on Human Rights.